

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously amended) A method for detecting whether or not a microphone is connected to a real-time audio communication system of a computer comprising:
 - recording an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;
 - filtering a DC component out of the audio sample;
 - determining values of auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;
 - comparing the values of the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample with predetermined values;
 - determining whether a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values; and
 - determining whether the microphone is not properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values.
2. (Previously amended) A computer program, residing on a computer-readable medium, for detecting whether or not a microphone is connected to an audio communication system of a computer, comprising instructions for causing the computer to:
 - record an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;
 - filter a DC component out of the audio sample;
 - determine values of auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;
 - compare the values of the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample with predetermined values;

compare the values of the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample with predetermined values;

determine whether a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values; and

determine whether the microphone is not properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values.

3. (Previously amended) A computer system running programmed processes comprising a process for detecting whether or not a microphone is connected to an audio communication system of a computer, which process causes the computer system to:

record an audio sample through the real-time audio communication system;

filter a DC component out of the audio sample;

determine values of auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample;

compare the values of the auto-correlation coefficients of the filtered audio sample with predetermined values;

determine whether a microphone is properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values; and

determine whether the microphone is not properly connected to the real-time audio communication system based on the comparison of the values of the auto-correlation function coefficients with the predetermined values.